

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS AND LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Amended) A device comprising:

a distribution component to be maintained on a vessel neck having an external wall, the component having an operating rod;

a retainer ring comprising a skirt defining an internal wall and an external wall, with the internal wall to contact the external wall of the neck, the ring having a through opening for the operating rod; and

a lining collar surrounding the skirt of the retainer ring, the lining collar defining an internal wall and a visible external wall, the ring and the collar extending about an axially vertical axis, the ring and the collar being definitively secured on the neck,

characterized in that the external wall of the skirt is formed with longitudinal external ribs extending axially vertically over the height of the skirt, said external ribs coming in fitting contact against the internal wall of the collar, and that the internal wall of the skirt is formed with longitudinal internal ribs extending axially vertically over the height of the skirt.

5. (Previously Amended) The device according to claim 4, wherein the internal ribs are angularly offset from the external ribs so that one internal rib is located between two external ribs and vice versa.

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6. (Previously Amended) The device according to claim 5, wherein the external wall of the skirt, between the external ribs, is at a distance from the internal wall of the lining collar so as to create an intermediate clearance.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Amended) A device that includes components for installation on the neck of a vessel having an external wall defined by a radial thickening projecting radially outwardly from the portion of the vessel neck below the radial thickening, said device comprising:

a distribution component adapted to be maintained on the vessel neck and having an operating rod;

a retainer ring comprising a skirt defining (1) an internal wall adapted to contact the external wall of the neck, (2) an external wall, and (3) a through opening for the operating rod; and

a lining collar surrounding the skirt of the retainer ring, the lining collar defining an internal wall and a visible external wall, the ring and the collar extending about an axially vertical axis, the ring and the collar being definitively secured on the vessel neck,

characterized in that the external wall of the retainer ring skirt is formed with longitudinal external ribs extending axially vertically over the height of the retainer ring skirt, said external ribs coming in fitting contact against the internal wall of the lining collar and extending to a location below said vessel neck radial thickening when said device is assembled on said vessel neck, and wherein

the internal wall of the retainer ring skirt is formed with longitudinal internal ribs extending axially vertically over the height of the skirt;

the internal ribs are angularly offset from the external ribs so that one internal rib is located between two external ribs and vice versa; and

the external wall of the retainer ring skirt, between the external ribs, is spaced radially inwardly from the internal wall of the lining collar so as to create an intermediate clearance.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) A device comprising:

a distribution component to be maintained on a vessel neck having an external wall, the component having an operating rod;

a retainer ring comprising a skirt defining (1) an internal wall adapted to contact the external wall of the neck, (2) an external wall, and (3) a through opening for the operating rod;
and

a lining collar surrounding the skirt of the retainer ring, the lining collar defining an internal wall and a visible external wall, the ring and the collar extending about an axially vertical axis;

characterized in that the external wall of the retainer ring skirt is formed with longitudinal external ribs extending axially vertically over the height of the retainer ring skirt, said external ribs coming in fitting contact against the internal wall of the lining collar, said external ribs each having a height, each said external rib contacting said internal wall of said lining collar over the entire height of said external rib; and

~~The device according to claim 17, wherein~~

the internal wall of the retainer ring skirt is radially distorted inwards at the external ribs;

and

before the retainer ring is fitted into the lining collar, the internal wall of the retainer ring skirt is cylindrical, and the external ribs together define a maximum diameter greater than the inside diameter of the lining collar.

19. (Currently Amended) A device comprising:

a distribution component to be maintained on a vessel neck having an external wall, the component having an operating rod;

a retainer ring comprising a skirt defining (1) an internal wall adapted to contact the external wall of the neck, (2) an external wall, and (3) a through opening for the operating rod;
and

a lining collar surrounding the skirt of the retainer ring, the lining collar defining an internal wall and a visible external wall, the ring and the collar extending about an axially vertical axis;

characterized in that the external wall of the retainer ring skirt is formed with longitudinal external ribs extending axially vertically over the height of the retainer ring skirt, said external ribs coming in fitting contact against the internal wall of the lining collar, said external ribs each having a height, each said external rib contacting said internal wall of said lining collar over the entire height of said external rib; and

~~The device according to claim 17, wherein~~

the internal wall of the retainer ring skirt is formed with longitudinal internal ribs

extending axially vertically over the height of the skirt;

the internal ribs are angularly offset from the external ribs so that one internal rib is located between two external ribs and vice versa; and

the external wall of the retainer ring skirt, between the external ribs, is spaced radially inwardly from the internal wall of the lining collar so as to create an intermediate clearance.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) A device for fastening a distribution component on a vessel neck having an external wall, said device comprising:

a retainer ring comprising a skirt defining an external wall and an internal wall adapted to contact the external wall of the vessel neck;

a lining collar surrounding the skirt of the retainer ring, the lining collar defining an internal wall and a visible external wall;

characterized in that the external wall of the retainer ring skirt is formed with circumferentially spaced, longitudinal external ribs, at least part of the circumference of said retainer ring skirt having a plurality of ribless portions which each extends between two of said external ribs and which deform radially within the lining collar to define an arc configuration after assembly of said lining collar around said retainer ring, whereby said ribless portions

contact said lining collar internal wall, and said external ribs contact said lining collar internal

wall ~~The device according to claim 20, wherein~~

the internal wall of the retainer ring skirt is formed with longitudinal internal ribs
extending axially vertically over the height of the retainer ring skirt;

the internal ribs are angularly offset from the external ribs so that one internal rib is
located between two external ribs and vice versa; and

the external ribs are evenly distributed around the retainer ring skirt.